

CASE 18***“Personality Disorder” in a 4-Year-Old***

- Children too!
- ... “personality disorder”

A 4-year-old boy was referred from Italy for advice regarding management. He had developed a marked personality disorder, with aggressive behavior, poor memory and with one seizure. Investigations revealed multiple lesions, especially in the frontal (front) cortex area of the brain. He was aPL positive. He has been started on warfarin – probably for life.

Comment

Hughes syndrome is most commonly diagnosed after the age of 20 (possibly with a bias brought about by the more widespread testing in pregnancy). However, the disease is recognized in children and even in infants.

In addition to the well-recognized association with epilepsy and seizure, this case suggests that brain involvement in children with Hughes syndrome can present with “neuro-psychiatric” manifestations. My own practice includes two patients with Hughes syndrome patients with obsessive–compulsive disorder (OCD) who improved with anticoagulation treatment.

Take Home Message

Although Hughes syndrome is rarely found in children, brain discomfort can take the form of psychiatric problems (personality disorder, aggressive behavior and poor memory) as well as neurologic features such as seizures.